

Tom Horne
Superintendent

N.E.W.S

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT TOM HORNE ANNOUNCES HIRING “SUPER COOPER” TO RAISE ENGLISH ACQUISITION QUALITY THROUGHOUT ARIZONA

PHOENIX (Monday, March 26, 2007) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne has announced the hiring of Kelt Cooper, referred to as “Super Cooper” in the Court’s recent *Flores* decision, to help schools throughout Arizona significantly improve the quality of their services to English Language Learners. He will be Director of Technical Services in the English Acquisition Section.

In the *Flores* decision, the Court stated:

There is no doubt that USD is doing substantially better than it was in 2000...The State Superintendent and State Legislators sing the praises of Mr. Kelt Cooper – he was called Super Cooper due to his efforts in the NUSD – and his noted achievements during his tenure as Superintendent for NUSD however, he is but one person and is no longer employed by NUSD. The success for failure of the children of NUSD or any other School district should not depend on having a “Super Cooper” at the helm.

Judge’s Order at page 4.

It is the position of the Department that, with the technical assistance of “Super Cooper,” all districts can implement improvements that will substantially increase the achievement levels of the English language learning students.

Cooper was superintendent in the Nogales District from 2001 to 2005, during which time he turned Nogales around from the underachieving district that was the subject of the Court’s 2000 *Flores* Order, to Arizona’s most successful district in teaching students English. In four Nogales schools, over 70 percent of students designated as English Language Learners in 2003 passed all three AIMS tests in English in 2005. This is a higher percentage than the state average, including native English speakers. Cooper achieved this through major reforms, including eliminating social promotion and emphasizing intervention for students who were falling behind. Prior to 2001, Cooper was a superintendent in Texas, where he was chosen as one of five top superintendents in Texas’ “Superintendent of the Year” program.

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